

# 2026 Patient Safety Component Annual Training Attendee's Guide

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**



PRESENTED BY:

NHSN Health Education Team

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)



# Welcome!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) will host the live presentation sessions of the 2026 NHSN Virtual Training:

## Taking the Lead in Healthcare Surveillance and Analysis on **March 17, 2026 - April 9, 2026.**

This course is intended for NHSN users of the Patient Safety Component and Outpatient Procedure Component.

The virtual training event will feature live presentations, pre-recorded training videos for self-paced viewing, and opportunities for Q&A.

Training topics include surveillance definitions and analysis for:

- Antimicrobial Use and Resistance
- Device-associated events
- New Digital Quality Measures (dQM)
- MRSA Bacteremia and C. difficile LabID events
- Outpatient Procedures
- Surgical Site Infection events

The virtual course provides participants with the opportunity to gain a better understanding of their NHSN surveillance data and how these data can be used for prevention.

# Gearing up for Annual Training

Weekly emails will be delivered to Patient Safety, Biovigilance, and Outpatient Care Component users of NHSN that will include:

- Agenda
- Link to join the session
- [Link to Annual Training community](#)

*The Annual Training Community is where everything happens. More on that later.*

# Structuring of Event

## ANNUAL TRAINING

- Sessions will be live only
- Weeks of March 16th - April 6th
- First session is Tuesday, March 17th
- Sessions will be held weekly on Tuesday and Thursday
- Session start at 12:00 noon Eastern Time
- Sessions last around 4 hours
- 10 minute Break



### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION!**

*CEs will be offered PLUS you will receive a Certificate of Completion for each session you complete.*

# Training Must Haves

## Do you have your handouts?

- Follow along
- Take notes
- Use during the case studies



**Reminder: Chat and Q & A features are limited to only 1000 participants.**

You can access the handouts from the Annual Training Community.

# Prepare for the Best Experience

To get the best experience possible, check out some important tips below to help you navigate this training.

- **It all happens in Microsoft Teams**
  - ▶ Engaging Learning Environment
- **The Best Way to Reach Us**
  - ▶ Annual Training Community
  - ▶ [NHSNTrain@cdc.gov](mailto:NHSNTrain@cdc.gov)
- **SAMS Access Required**
  - ▶ Overview of steps to register for SAMS
  - ▶ Active link to start SAMS process
- **Annual Training Agenda**
  - ▶ Titles
  - ▶ Times
  - ▶ Microsoft Teams Links

# Best Practices

## FOR BEST TRAINING EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE

- Access Teams session on computer for best results
- Download handouts
- Download certificates of completion
- Verify the start times have converted to your time zone

# Engaging Learning Environment



**Reminder: Chat and Q & A features are limited to only 1000 participants.**

## IT ALL HAPPENS IN MICROSOFT TEAMS

- You are in listen-only mode. Communication takes place in Q & A or Chat fields.

## SUBMITTING QUESTIONS

- Submit current topic questions in the Q & A feature.
- No specific case review content will be addressed, only protocol questions and concerns.
- If your question is not answered, please send it to [NHSN-ServiceNow](#).
- Use Chat when you need to speak with a moderator about training event concerns or when the SMEs ask you to drop your response in chat.

# Navigating the 2026 Annual Training Community

Click [Annual Training Community](#) to access.



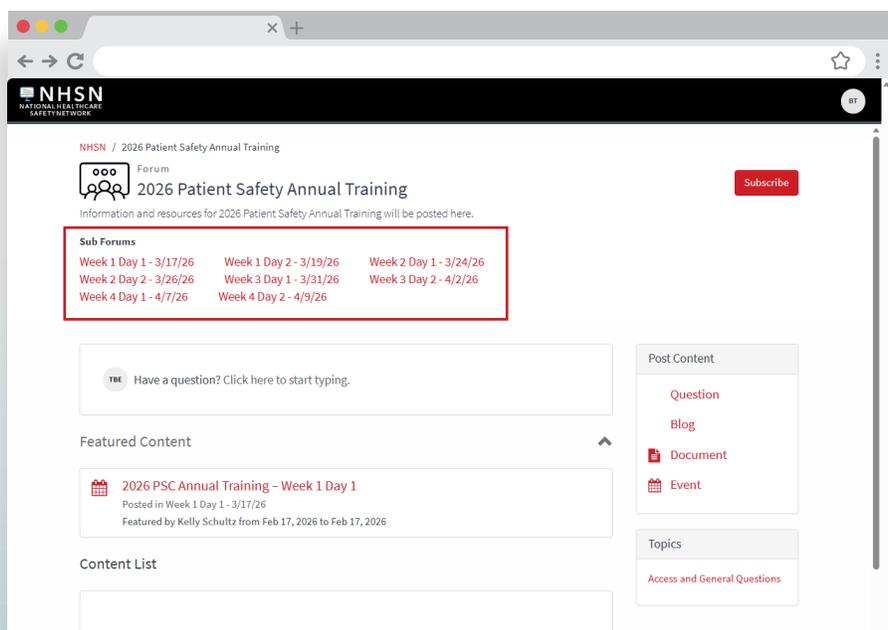
## Here's all that you can do in the Annual Training Community:

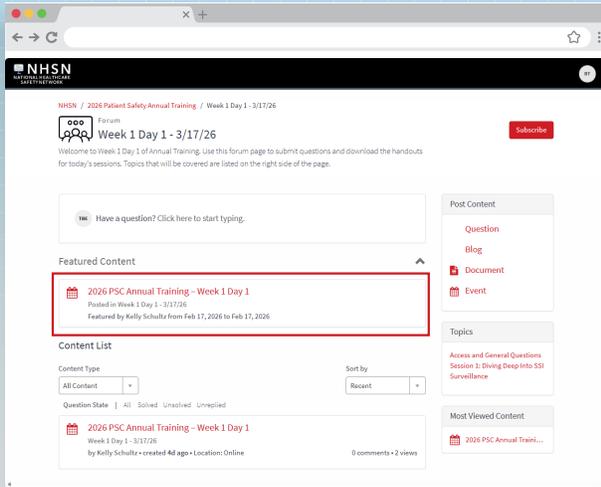
- ➔ Access links to Microsoft Teams Annual Training Sessions.
- ➔ Download handouts.
- ➔ Post questions to SMEs or Health Educators.
- ➔ Download Certificates of Completion.

**NOTE:** You must have SAMS Access to enter the Annual Training Community.

**Forum Pages** contain all content posted to the forum, links to topic pages, and a list of Most Viewed content. Select a Sub Forum to see content for a specific topic area.

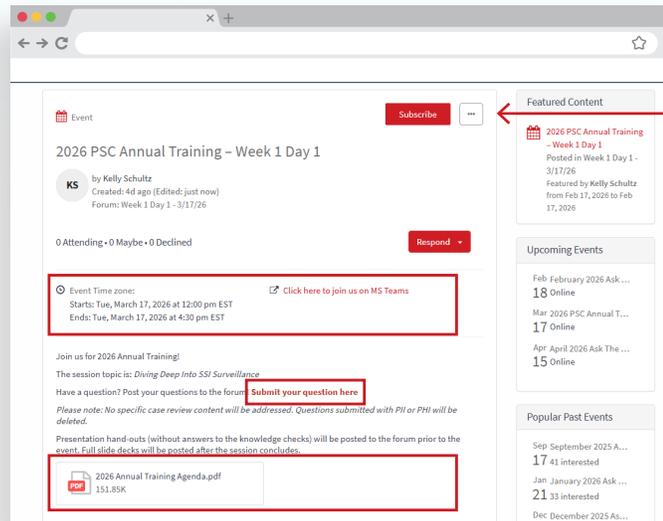
- Sub Forums house the Annual Training content for that day.
- General Forum questions can be posted here on the forum page.
- Only users with access to post content will see content types in the Post Content box on the right side of the page.





- Featured Content appears above the full content list.
- Use the content filter and sorting options to focus on specific content.

**Event Pages** contains details including: event date & time, meeting link, session topic, link to submit questions, and presentation documents.

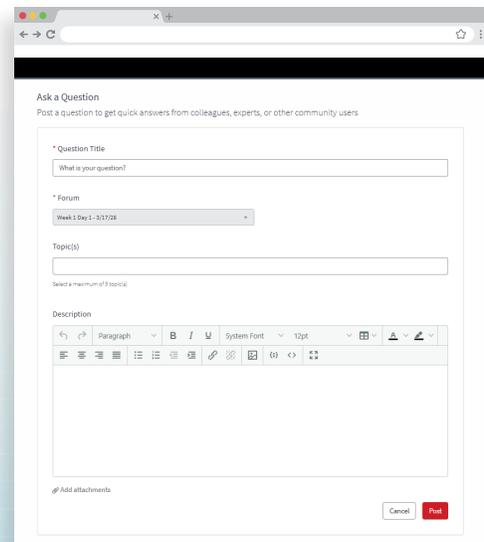


Click the action button (3 dots) to download a calendar invite for the event topic.

## Posting a Question

Type your question in the Question Title box.

- ➔ Select the topic area for your question.
- ➔ Include more detail and attachments if needed.
- ➔ Click Post when you're done.



# SAMS Access for Annual Training Community

In order to access the Annual Training community, you need SAMS access. Here's how you get it.

## For Annual Training Community ONLY Access:

If you don't have SAMS Access and want to access the Annual Training Community, you can gain SAMS Access, for the Annual Training Community ONLY, by sending an email to User Support at [NHSN@cdc.gov](mailto:NHSN@cdc.gov) with the subject line "SAMS Access for Annual Training Community."

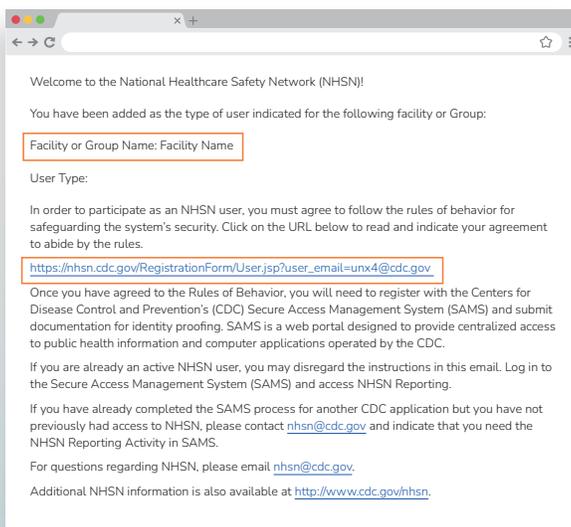
## For NHSN Use SAMS Access:

**STEP 1:** To obtain SAMS access you must be added to a facility in NHSN as a user. Once added, a SAMS invite will be submitted on your behalf.

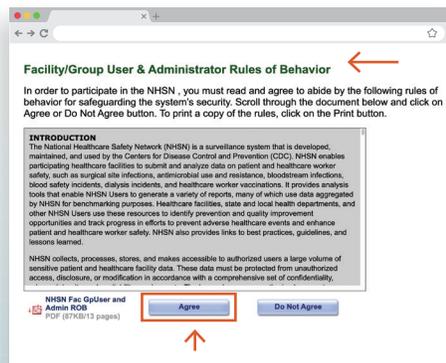
If you have previously been added as a user to the facility in NHSN, but do not have SAMS access, you need to send us an email at [NHSN@cdc.gov](mailto:NHSN@cdc.gov) for assistance.

**NOTE:** If you **do not** have access to a facility in NHSN, then your listed facility administrator will need to add you as a user to the facility. You will then receive a 'Welcome to NHSN' email.

**STEP 2:** Receive the 'Welcome to NHSN' email as shown below.



After clicking the link in the 'Welcome to NHSN' email, you will then need to agree to the NHSN Rules of Behavior by clicking the **Agree** button as shown below.





# SAMS Access, continued



For additional information on NHSN Training, please visit the NHSN Training Website.

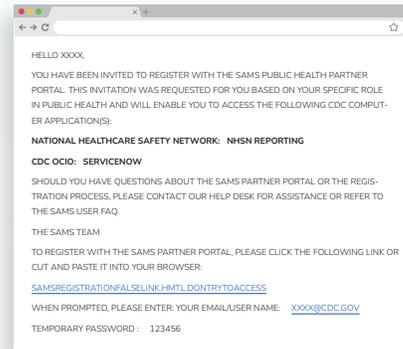
NHSN Training Date

I certify that I have completed all of the appropriate, required NHSN trainings on:

Once you click the **Agree** button, you will then be taken to the next page where you certify that you have completed all the appropriate, required NHSN trainings on this specific date. **NOTE: training is preferred not required.**

You can access the [NHSN trainings here](#).

**STEP 3:** Receive SAMS email and click the SAMS Registration Link in email.



## STEP 4: Identity Verification Process

**Option 1 – Experian:** Using a secure interface, you will provide Experian your Social Security Number (SSN) and Date of Birth (DOB). This information is sent directly to Experian and is NOT stored or saved by SAMS/CDC. Experian will attempt to validate your information and may ask you a series of questions based on your credit history. There is no impact on your credit score or credit worthiness. This is the fastest and most secure method to complete the SAMS identity proofing process.

**Option 2 – Document Review:** You will be required to complete a form included at the bottom of the identity verification instructions email. This form, along with appropriate identification, will need to be reviewed by a notary or other trusted third party and copies submitted to SAMS via secure upload or by mail. Once received by SAMS, it will be reviewed and validated. This process can take several weeks to complete depending on volume and how the documentation is sent to SAMS.

**STEP 5:** Once approved, you will receive and email from [sams-no-reply@cdc.gov](mailto:sams-no-reply@cdc.gov) with links to the NHSN application.



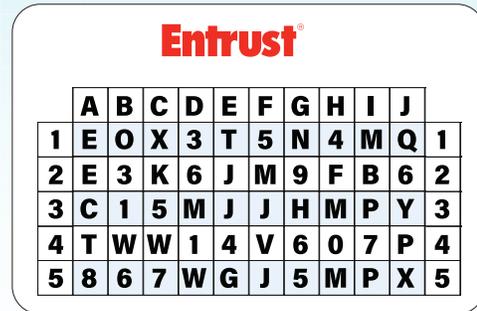
# SAMS Access, continued

## STEP 6: SAMS Token Process

### SAMS supports two type of tokens: soft token and hard token (GRID card)

- A soft token that requires the installation of an entrust authenticator application on your phone, tablet, or computer.
- A hard token which is a physical Entrust grid card mailed to your home address.

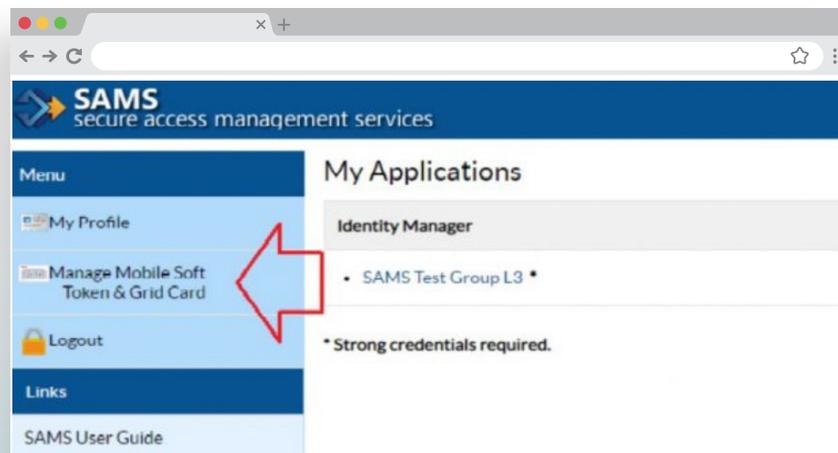
SAMS will email you instructions explaining how to setup your second factor credential after account activation.



SAMS grid card

**NOTE:** You can manage the initial setup using the 'Mobile Soft Token & Grid Card' option on the SAMS Portal.

**STEP 7:** After setting up your credentialed device (via token or receiving your SAMS grid card), log into SAMS. Under the SAMS Multi-factor Login picture, click Login. On the SAMS home page, select NHSN Enrollment to complete electronic enrollment for the desired component.



# ■ Are You Set?

## 5 QUESTIONS TO CONFIRM YOUR READINESS

**Q:** What's the date of the first session in the 2026 Annual Training?

**A:** **March 17**

**Q:** Are CEs available?

**A:** **Yes**

**Q:** Where do you access handouts?

**A:** **AT Community**

**Q:** Can you access the Annual Training community without SAMS access?

**A:** **No**

**Q:** In what time zone are the sessions scheduled?

**A:** **Eastern**



# Agenda with Training Links

**On day of event, click on the training date to access the Annual Training Teams Link.**

## [Tuesday March 17, 2026](#) (← click this date to enter training)

Welcome	12:00 pm - 12:30 pm
Diving Deep Into SSI Surveillance	12:35 pm - 4:35 pm

## [Thursday March 19, 2026](#) (← click this date to enter training)

Welcome	12:00 pm - 12:15 pm
Bacteremia and Fungemia Surveillance Module	12:15 pm - 1:45 pm
10 Min. Break	1:45 pm - 1:55 pm
Ventilator-Associated Event (VAE) and Case Studies Surveillance Guidelines and Protocol Application 2026	1:55 pm - 3:15 pm
10 Min. Break	3:15 pm - 3:25 pm
Pediatric Ventilator-Associated Event (PedVAE): Surveillance Guidelines and Protocol Application 2026	3:25 pm - 4:15 pm

## [Tuesday March 24, 2026](#) (← click this date to enter training)

Welcome	12:00 pm - 12:15 pm
Multidrug Resistant Organism and Clostridioides difficile (MDRO/CDI) LabID Event Reporting and Infection Surveillance (Live)	12:15 pm - 1:45 pm
10 Min Break	1:45 pm - 1:55 pm
LabID SIRs: When Results Raise Questions	1:55 pm - 2:35 pm
Nurse Staffing Indicator	2:35 pm - 3:05 pm
Data Quality Matters!	3:05 pm - 3:50 pm

## [Thursday March 26, 2026](#) (← click this date to enter training)

Welcome	12:00 pm - 12:15 pm
CDC Antibiotic Stewardship Updates	12:15 pm - 12:45 pm
Using Data for Action with the 2023 AU SAAR Rebaseline	12:45 pm - 1:45 pm

# Agenda with Training Links (continued)

**On day of event, click on the training date to access the Annual Training Teams Link.**

## **Thursday March 26, 2026 (cont.)** (←←← click this date to enter training)

10 Min. Break	1:45 pm - 1:55 pm
Beyond the Basics: Advanced Analysis and Interpretation of NHSN AU Option Data	1:55 pm - 2:55 pm
Common Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance Option Upload Errors	2:55 pm - 3:25 pm
Mastering AU Option Data Quality Validation: Tools & Best Practices	3:25 pm - 3:55 pm
10 Min. Break	3:55 pm - 4:05 pm
A Guide to the Antimicrobial Resistance (AR) Option Data Report	4:05 pm - 4:35 pm

## **Tuesday March 31, 2026** (←←← click this date to enter training)

Welcome	12:00 pm - 12:15 pm
Patient Safety Structural Measure	12:15 pm - 1:00 pm
Making the HAI Call: Identifying Healthcare-associated Infections	1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
10 Min. Break	2:00 pm - 2:10 pm
Let's Get Cultured: Mastering NHSN UTI Surveillance	2:10 pm - 3:40 pm

## **Thursday April 2, 2026** (←←← click this date to enter training)

Welcome	12:00 pm - 12:15 pm
Spot the BSI: Understanding the Bloodstream Infection(BSI) Event Definition	12:15 pm - 1:30 pm
10 Min. Break	1:30 pm - 1:40 pm
The Strength of Being Second - Secondary BSI	1:40 pm - 2:55 pm
BSI Case Studies	2:55 pm - 4:25 pm

# Agenda with Training Links (continued)

*On day of event, click on the training date to access the Annual Training Teams Link.*

## Tuesday April 7, 2026 ([← click this date to enter training](#))

Welcome	12:00 pm - 12:15 pm
A Next Generation Hemovigilance Module	12:15 pm - 1:45 pm
What's in a Name? Location Mapping in NHSN	1:45 pm - 2:30 pm
10 Min. Break	2:30 pm - 2:40 pm
Criteria Confirmed: Navigating NHSN Pneumonia Surveillance	2:40 pm - 4:10 pm

## Tuesday April 9, 2026 ([← click this date to enter training](#))

Welcome	12:00 pm - 12:15 pm
Navigating NHSN: From Resources to Reporting	12:15 pm - 12:45 pm
CMS CLABSI-Onc and CAUTI-Onc Measures	12:45 pm - 1:15 pm
Adjusted Ranking Metric (ARM) and HAI Composite	1:15 pm - 2:15 pm

# ■ Thank you

**FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, CONTACT THE NHSN HELP DESK.**

- NHSN-ServiceNow to submit questions to the NHSN Help Desk. Access new portal at <https://servicedesk.cdc.gov/nhsncsp>.
- If you do not have a SAMS login, or are unable to access ServiceNow, you can still email the NHSN Help Desk at [NHSNTrain@CDC.gov](mailto:NHSNTrain@CDC.gov). Place **Annual Training** in subject line.